

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of	:	Attorney Docket No. 2006_1256A
Toshiaki KURACHI et al.	:	Confirmation No. 8440
Serial No. 10/588,544	:	Group Art Unit 2821
Filed August 7, 2006	:	Examiner Jianzi Chen
DIELECTRIC BARRIER DISCHARGE LAMP LIGHTING DEVICE	:	Mail Stop: ISSUE FEE

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance accompanying the Notice of Allowability dated August 13, 2010, Applicants submit the following comments:

Applicants note that in the Statement of Reasons for Allowance, the Examiner states that the prior art of record fails to disclose or fairly suggest "a dielectric barrier discharge lamp lighting device for driving a dielectric barrier discharge lamp having an inner electrode (4) and an external electrode (5, as shown in Fig. 3), comprising: a self-resonant frequency f_r of the secondary coil, which is measured with the primary coil of the transformer being open, is equal to the driving frequency f_d " in combination with the remaining claimed limitations as claimed in independent claim 1.

However, Applicants submit that, according to the present invention, the driving frequency f_d and the self-resonant frequency f_r are equal or substantially equal and "the self-resonant frequency f_r which is equal to the driving frequency f_d " has a certain frequency margin. Therefore, as discussed with the Examiner, Applicants submit that the scope of claim 1, as amended by the Examiner, includes a dielectric barrier discharge lamp with a self-resonant frequency f_r which is a frequency in the vicinity of the driving frequency f_d .

Should the Examiner believe there are any remaining issues that must be resolved, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Toshiaki KURACHI et al.

/Jeffrey J. Howell/

By 2010.11.09 13:43:53 -05'00'

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